

Message Text

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TAGS: PFOR, PORT, SOPN, CA

SUBJECT: MARK GAYN, STAR COLUMIST, OUTLINES POSSIBLE CHANGES
IN CANADIAN FOREIGN POLICY IF THAT COUNTRY GAINS SEAT IN U.N.
SECURITY COUNCIL, STAR EDITORIAL REACTS.

IN A FRONTPAGE COLUMN ON 30 AUGUST, MARK GAYN OF THE TORONTO
STAR SUGGESTS THAT THERE WILL BE CHANGES IN FOUR CRITICAL AREAS
OF CANADIAN FOREIGN POLICY IF CANADA IS SEATED IN U.N. SECURITY
COUNCIL AT BEGINNING OF 1977.

GAYN, WHOSE COLUMNS COVER FOREIGN AFFAIRS FOR THE STAR, PROJECTS
THE FOUR MAJOR CHANGES BY CANADIAN MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AS:

(1) CANADIAN FOREIGN POLICY WILL MOVE TO A MORE FAVORABLE POSITION
TOWARDS THE ARAB COUNTRIES, ESPECIALLY TOWARDS THE
PALESTINIAN LIBERATION ORGANIZATION, AND AWAY FROM ISRAEL.
-A MORE 'BALANCED, OBJECTIVE AND EVEN-HANDED' APPROACH TOWARDS
THE MIDDLE EAST;

(2) CANADA WILL CONTINUE TO PURSUE ITS THIRD OPTION OF MOVING
CLOSER TO THE THIRD WORLD EVEN AT RISK OF ANTAGONIZING ITS TRADITIONA
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ALLIES;

(3) CANADA WILL INCREASINGLY SUPPORT SANCTIONS AGAINST SOUTH
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AFRICA BUT WILL NOT SUPPORT ANY MOVE TO OUST THAT COUNTRY FROM

THE U.N.;

(4) AS THE RESULT OF THESE SHIFTS IN ITS FOREIGN POLICY CANADA WILL PROBABLY BE AT INCREASING ODDS WITH THE UNITED STATES. IT IS THE PROSPECT OF A SEAT IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL THAT WILL FORCE THESE CHANGES. CANADA WILL NO LONGER BE ABLE TO WAFFLE ITS STANCE AND STATEMENTS IN THE UNITED NATIONS. "THE EYES OF THE WORLD, IT IS ARGUED, WILL BE ON CANADA, AND CLEAR-CUT POSITIONS WILL BE REQUIRED".

ACCORDING TO GAYN, THESE POLICY CHANGES WILL NOT BE ENACTED ABRUPTLY OR IMMEDIATELY, IN GOOD PART BECAUSE THERE IS SO MUCH VARIANCE OF OPINION WITHIN THE EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTRY AND BECAUSE MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT FEAR ADVERSE PUBLIC REACTION (AND LOSS OF THEIR SEATS). MOST OF THE COLUMN DISCUSSES AN "ACTIVIST" CONTINGENT WITHIN THE MINISTRY THAT LOOKS FOR CHANGES IN CANADA'S PRO-ISRAEL POSITION; NOTHING FURTHER IS DISCUSSED OF HOW CLOSER TIES WITH THE THIRD WORLD MIGHT BE DEVELOPED OR OF JUST WHAT REPERCUSSIONS A SHIFT IN FOREIGN POLICY MIGHT HAVE ON CANADIAN RELATIONS WITH THE U.S.

IN AN EDITORIAL RESPONSE TO THE GAYN COLUMN, "A WRONG TURN IN FOREIGN POLICY" THE TORONTO STAR EDITORIALIZED ON 31 AUGUST THAT THE TROUBLE WITH THE PROPOSED CHANGES IN CANADIAN FOREIGN POLICY IS "THAT IT SEEMS BASED ON EXPEDIENCY AND SHORT-RUN INTEREST, NOT ON PRINCIPLE AND CANADA'S PERMANENT INTERESTS". APPROPRIATE OF CANADA ALIGNING ITSELF MORE CLOSELY WITH THE THIRD WORLD, THE U.N. MAJORITY, THE STAR EDITORIAL CAN SEE HOW THIS MIGHT INCREASE CANADIAN OPTIONS AND DECREASE DEPENDENCE ON THE U.S. BUT ARGUES THAT THE THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES SHARE IN COMMON ONLY AN ANTAGONISM TOWARDS THE U.S. AND ISRAEL AND, BEING HOSTILE TO DEMOCRACY AND FREEDOM, ARE NOT SUITABLE ALLIES FOR CANADA

THE EDITORIAL GOES ON TO SUPPORT:

"A SOUND FOREIGN POLICY IS FOUNDED ON KNOWING WHO A COUNTRY'S FRIENDS ARE, AND ON THE BEDROCK PRINCIPLES OF ITS POLITICAL LIFE. BY ALL MEANS, WE SHOULD HELP THOSE THIRD WORLD STATES WHICH ARE IN NEED. BUT WE SHOULD NOT CONDONE THEIR IDEOLOGICAL AND RACIST CAMPAIGNS AGAINST OUR FRIENDS-AND THESE NOTABLY INCLUDE THE U.S. AND ISRAEL. WE MAY HAVE OUR FIGHTS WITH THE AMERICANS, BUT THESE UNCLASSIFIED

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WILL BE OVER BILATERAL AFFAIRS, NOT THE THIRD WORLD. AND WE SHOULD BE WARY OF 'LEANING' ON ISRAEL IN MATTERS THAT MAY INVOLVE ITS VERY SURVIVAL. THE PROJECTED CHANGES ARE WRONG. THE POLICIES ONCE ENUNCIATED BY LESTER PEARSON ARE STILL VALID. LET US STAND BY OUR FRIENDS, AND BE GUIDED IN OUR POLICYMAKING NOT BY THE DESIRE TO PLEASE THIS OR THAT ASIAN OR AFRICAN RULER BUT BY OUR TRADITIONAL VALUES. AND THIS WOULD NOWHERE BE DEMONSTRATED BETTER THAN FROM OUR SEAT AT THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL."

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